

Filed for intro on 03/12/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 112  
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to name and designate the first Wednesday of April, 2001, as the "National Day of Hope in Tennessee".

WHEREAS, founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, Childhelp USA is one of the oldest and largest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, in the initial organization of the "National Day of Hope," Childhelp USA's stated goal was to create a greater awareness of child abuse and to inspire and mobilize people across the country to work for solutions to this tragic problem; and

WHEREAS, each day, more than three children in the United States die as a result of parental maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, approximately three million reports of abuse are made each year, but it is believed that the actual incidence of abuse and neglect is estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to authorities; and

SJR0112

00412520

WHEREAS, seventy-eight percent of abused children under the age of five and thirty-eight percent under one year of age lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, with statistics as staggering as these it is of the utmost importance that we fight to end this epidemic of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to delinquency, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; the cost of human life is irreplaceable and too high a price to pay for something that we can stop if we all join and strive together to end this cycle of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Childhelp USA believes it is important to create hope for all children who have suffered abuse and neglect; to that end, they have established the first Wednesday of the month of April, 2001, as the National Day of Hope; and

WHEREAS, this day will focus national attention on the tragedy of child abuse and mobilize businesses, the faith community, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and all citizens across America to commit—and recommit—their energy and resources to assist abused and neglected children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby designate April 4, 2001 as a National Day of Hope in Tennessee, in order to focus public awareness on this social ill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the faith community, nonprofit organizations and volunteers throughout Tennessee recommit themselves to mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Tennesseans are urged to support any and all actions on behalf of abused and neglected children, committing their prayers, words, resources and abilities to that end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.